

BEST AVAILABLE COPYREMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 remain active in this application. Of these, Claims 1, 3 and 6 have been amended. Former claim 2 has been canceled.

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Re: Drawings:

In the official action, the examiner objected to the drawings as originally filed with this application as being hand drawn (informal). In this connection, the examiner indicated that applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance per 37 CFR 1.85(a).

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Formal drawings (2 sheets) have now been prepared and are enclosed herewith.

Also enclosed is a separate letter to the Official Draftsperson transmitting the formal drawings with a request that, subject to the approval of the examiner, they be substituted for the hand drawn (informal) drawings originally filed.

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In the official action, the examiner stated that Claims 2 and 3 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Further, Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this connection, the examiner indicated that the allowable subject matter of Claims 2-3 and 6 is that they claimed circuit does not comprise DC isolation capacitors.

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Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for his helpful suggestions regarding amendment of the claims to more clearly express the essence of the present invention. In this connection, applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of former Claim 2 regarding DC isolation. Allowable dependent claim 3 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 1. With the amendment of Claim 1 to include the limitations of former Claim 2, the dependent claims 3, 4 and 5 are therefore now allowable. Former dependent claim 6, indicated as being

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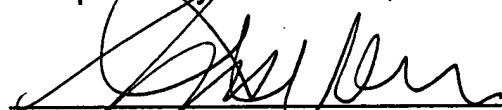
allowable, has been amended to include all the limitations of Claims 1 and 5 and to correct the 112 objection. Claim 7, in view of the amendment of Claim 1, is unchanged.

5 In view of the foregoing, reconsideration in view of the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and allowance of Claims 1-7, as herein amended, is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

10 In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Please continue to address communications to:
Joseph S. Tripoli
Thomson Multimedia Licensing, Inc.
Post Office Box 2023
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

Respectfully submitted,

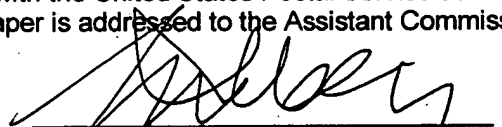


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**Certificate of Mailing By
Express Mail under 37 CFR §1.8**

I hereby certify that I am depositing this paper with the United States Postal Service as first class main on the date indicated below and this paper is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

12/12/01
Date Deposited


Frederick A. Wein, Reg. No. 27,168

ENCLOSURES: Formal Drawing (2 sheets)

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Letter to Official Draftsperson

"Clean Copy" of active claims with this amendment.

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY "MARKED UP" copies of amended claims:

1. (Once Amended) A voltage level translator for operating an operational amplifier integrated circuit designed for operation with a single ended power supply, to operate with a split level power supply having a center tapped ground, comprising:

first means for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a first polarity of the power supply,

second means for connecting a second polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a second polarity of the split level power supply, [and]

means for connecting a signal input terminal of the operational amplifier to a center tapped ground of the split level power supply and:

wherein another signal input terminal of the operational amplifier is coupled to a signal source referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier and the output terminal of the operational amplifier is coupled to a signal load referenced to ground without any DC isolation capacitors connected in series with the amplifier.

3. (Once Amended) The voltage level translator of claim 1 [2] wherein the signal load is a loudspeaker having one terminal referenced to ground.

6. (Once Amended) [The voltage level translator of claim 5] A voltage level translator for operating an operational amplifier integrated circuit designed for operation with a single ended power supply, to operate with a split level power supply having a center tapped ground, comprising:

first means for connecting a first polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a first polarity of the power supply,

second means for connecting a second polarity power supply terminal of the operational amplifier integrated circuit to a second polarity of the split level power supply, and

means for connecting a signal input terminal of the operational amplifier to a center tapped ground of the split level power supply.

wherein the split level power supply having a center tapped ground also provides power to other circuits performing other functions and:

wherein the amplifier includes an output load comprising [is] an earphone and the other circuits performing other functions is a DVD player. 1.

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